(c) Introduction of Store & Forward Telegraph system to reduce transit delay, Opening of additional zonal delivery offices, Introduction of mechanised delivery through mopeds, Incentive to telegraphists and telegraphmen, Replacement of electro-mechanical teleprinters by electronic machines, Maintaining proper coordination with postal authorites and Provision of stable and reliable media like satellite and microwave channels for telegraph working are the steps being taken to minimise delay in delivery of telgrams.

Production and import of pesticides

3619. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1976 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have seen report regarding harmful effects of some pesticides on human population due to toxic after effects: and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the licensing and import of such pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No specific instance of harmful effects of any particular pesticide on human population has been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Out of court settlement with Union carbide corporation

3620. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in New York Times that in a move to bypass the Indian Government the Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) has begun talks with lawyers for individual victims of the Bhopal gas disaster seeking an out of court solution to the prolonged litigation: and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government are contemplating in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Superior Court, Judicial District of Fairfield at Bridgepor Connecticut has decided that India is not an indispensable party in the litigation before that Court. Therefore it also observed that the plaintiffs in the case before the Court and Union Carbide can enter into settlement negotiations under the directions of that Court. The Court has also observed that it does not have to recognise the Bhopal Act.

Following the decision of Judge Keenan for sending back the Bhopal case to the competent Court in India, after Union Carbide submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court. Government had initated proceedings in the Court of District Judge, Bhopal, which is being pursued vigorously. In fact on an application filed by the Government in the Court of District Judge, Bhopal the Court has passed an interim order directing Union Carbide Corporation not to make any settlement or compromise with any individual claimant.

Violation of MRTP Act

3621. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of various reports including administrative ones submitted in 1985, 1986 and 1987 by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission;

(b) whether these reports have referred to big industrial houses and individuals who have violated the MRTP Act;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether, MRTP Commission has authority to take panel action against those, violating the MRTP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) During the years 1985, 1986 & 1987 the MRTP Commission had submitted six administrative reports inclusion in the Annual Reports pertaining to the execution of the provisions of the MRTP Act, 1969 for the years 1984, 1985 and 1986 and the other three relating to the provisions of the Monopolistic, Restrictive and Unfair Trade Practices as contained in the MRTP Act for the purposes of Annual Reports of the Department of Company Affairs for the years 1984-85, 1985-86 & 1986-87. While the Annual Reports pertaining to the execution of the provisions of the MRTP Act for the years 1984 & 1985 were laid on the Table of the House on 5-5-86 and 24-8-87, respectively the Report for the year 1986 is in print for being laid on the Table of the House. The Annual Reports of the Department of Company Affairs for the years 1984-85, 1985-86 & 1986-87 were circulated amongst the Members of the House on 11-4-85, 16-4-86 & 7-4-87 respectively.

(d) The MRTP Commission has powers to take action for certain violations of the MRTP Act.

Export of cement to the neighbouring countries

3622. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to export cement to neighbouring countries; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Cement production in the country is sufficient to meet the existing demand and spare some quantities for export. Under the current Export Policy (1988—91), Export of cement is canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India. Export of some quantity of cement to Nepal has been permitted.

Italian offer for the modernisation of Indian private industrial firms

3623. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the fourth meeting of the Indo-Italian Joint Business Council held in Milan, Italy, on the 10th May, 1988, under the joint auspices of the FICCI and the Confindustria, Italy has stressed the need for increased financial cooperation between India and Italy particularly for the modernisation of Indian private industrial firms;

(b) if so, what were the other subjects discussed and whether the decisions arrived at have been submitted to the Indian Government; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) have reported that during the fourth meeting of Indo-Italian Joint Business Council held on April 22, 1988 in Milan, Italy under the auspices of FICCI and Confindustria of Italy, the Italian side emphasised that there was considerable scope for modernisation and upgradation of Indian industries in which they could provide technology and know-how.

(b) and (c) The FICCI have reported that other subjects discussed at the Joint Business Council meeting were economic situation in India and Italy for enlarging economic cooperation, enhancing of bilateral trade, promotion of joint collaboration and investment flow. Any specific proposal of collaboration between the two sides would be considered on merits as per existing policy guidelines as and when it is received.